



Department of Psychology
Psychology 305 (L01) – History of Psychological Thought
Fall 2010

Instructor:	Dr. Hank Stam	Lecture Location:	A167
Phone:	(403) 220-5683	Lecture Days/Time:	T 17:00-19:50
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Office:	Admin 251C		
Office Hours:	T 3:00-4:00		

Course Description and Goals

This course is a history of psychological thought and concentrates on the North Atlantic world (Europe and North America). Although it is not *directly* a history of the *discipline* of psychology per sé, our aim is to conclude the course by examining the emergence and structure of the discipline of psychology. It is not so much a search for *antecedents* and *forerunners* of psychology that will occupy us because a search for antecedents already assumes that what we know in the present is the best possible knowledge. This assumption leads us to treat the past as a mere prologue to some better understanding that is manifested in present-day knowledge. In that case the study of the past would largely be concerned with trivia or remain of antiquarian interest. We are not interested in being museum directors. Instead we will want to know how thinking about human nature involves ways of living and hence the practical everyday conduct of life is tied up with our knowledge of ourselves.

This course is thus concerned with thinkers, scholars, scientists and social movements and how these interweave to produce unique positions on the problems of (a) the nature of the *universe*, (b) the nature of *life*, and in particular (c) the nature of the *human*. In moving to the twentieth-century we will want to concern ourselves with the relationship between theories of human nature and changing *social institutions* as the latter are important sources and places for trying to understand what theorists thought was of value in understanding mind and what constituted conduct. We will limit ourselves to what has traditionally been called “western” thought beginning with early European thought and ending with twentieth-century psychologists. We will cover only *some* of the important developments along the way, namely those that are viewed as major turning points for the understanding of human nature. There is much that will not be covered by this course but I will try to give what we do cover a level of coherence.

University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives: This course is directly relevant to the core competencies. We will be engaged in addressing historical perspectives and theoretical frameworks that form the foundations of critical and creative thinking in the discipline and that are focused on the analysis of problems at a foundational level. Much of this will require exposure to, and mastery of, abstract reasoning. The tests and assignment you will complete are designed to require you to engage in effective communication strategies and will require

that you gather and organize information effectively. It is expected that this course will generate insight into how knowledge is produced, how psychological knowledge came into existence as a separate category of knowing, and it will enhance your interpretive and assessment skills with respect to the evaluation of knowledge claims.

Prerequisites: None

Required Text: John Benjafield (2010). *A History of Psychology* (3rd edition). Oxford University Press.

Course Notes: All class notes will be posted on Blackboard for which you are automatically registered if you are registered in this class. You can find our 305 notes by logging into blackboard at: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>.

Evaluation:

Your total grade will be based on three midterm exams (written) and a take-home final exam. These are:

1. Midterm I: Tuesday, October 5 (15% of final grade)
2. Midterm II: Tuesday, November 2 (20% of final grade)
3. Midterm III: Tuesday, November 30 (25% of final grade)

These midterms will consist of written responses to short answer or essay-style questions on the material covered immediately prior to the test. The first test is worth less to give you some experience with the nature of these tests. Please do not ask me to discount earlier tests in favor of later tests as this will not be done.

The Midterms will be written in the *first hour* of the class. The remaining time will be devoted to lectures.

4. Each week there will be a "Discussion Question Of The Week" presented in class. This is a discussion question that you will take up with others in brief group discussions every class. Two of these discussions will have to be handed in during the term for 5% each (total, 10%). You will write out the conclusions to the discussion question along with your critical evaluation. Any ideas not your own should be properly referenced. It should not be longer than 500 words and can be handed in during any week from September 21 to December 7.

5. Final Exam: A take-home final exam will be given on December 7th and is due one week later on Tuesday, December 14th in my office or handed in to my mailbox by 4:30 PM of the 14th. Simultaneously the exam must be handed in electronically to a designated email address. This is a final exam and therefore no late exams will be allowed (30% of final grade).

All midterms and exams will consist of questions requiring written responses designed to evaluate your ability to synthesize and critically evaluate the material.

Please note that all components of the course must be completed to achieve a passing grade.

Grading Scale

The final percentage obtained in the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Fall 2010 – Lecture Schedule Tuesdays September 14 - December 7

Class	Topic	Textbook Chapter
Tuesday Sept 14:	What is history? What is the history of psychology? & The Hellenistic and Roman Worlds	Chapter 1
Tuesday Sept 21:	Plato and Aristotle, the Middle Ages	Chapter 2
Tuesday Sept 28:	From Descartes to Darwin	Chapter 3
Tuesday Oct 5:	The Nineteenth Century	Chapter 4
Tuesday Oct 12:	Wilhelm Wundt and German Origins of Psychology	Chapter 5
Tuesday Oct 19:	Freud and the Unconscious	Chapter 7
Tuesday Oct 26:	William James and the US context	Chapter 6
Tuesday Nov 2:	Psychology of Adaptation: Structure or Function	Chapter 8
Tuesday Nov 9:	Animal Psychology, Behaviorism(s)	Chapters 9 & 12
Tuesday Nov 16:	Gestalt and Social Psychologies	Chapter 10
Tuesday Nov 23:	Methodologies	Chapter 11
Tuesday Nov 30:	Developmental Orientations and Humanism	Chapters 13 & 14
Tuesday Dec 7:	Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 15

Date	Important Dates
Sept 13	Lectures begin
Sept 24	<i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>
Sept 27	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration.</i>
Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day. University closed.
Nov 11-14	Reading Days. No lectures.
Dec 8	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits
Dec 10	Fall Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw
Dec 14	Final exam due
Dec 25-31	Holiday Observance. Session Break. University closed.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the

instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 8th, 2010**.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Sep 24th, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is Sep 27th, 2010. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 10th, 2010**.